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## A gift from Laramie

### To the Editor:

I am a senior at Crystal Lake South and also one of the students lucky enough to have been cast in "The Laramie Project."

Granted, if you ask any of my fellow cast or crew, they would tell you I wasn't exactly thrilled to do a play about such a loaded topic.

I feared that most people would get hung up on the content of the play and refuse to accept the image of our society it presents.

I admit, I was wrong.

The reactions I saw were almost purely positive, they understood and they accepted. I did say "almost purely positive," though.

On Saturday, you printed a letter by Alan Stewart that refuted my director's description of this town as "quaint" and "protected" by arguing that there are no occurrences on Crystal Lake's records of a lack of tolerance toward any group.

As I was reading this letter, two thoughts crossed my mind.

My first thought was, Mr. Stewart obviously didn't see the

play because the people of Laramie once thought the same way. They didn't believe it could happen in their town.

I see in that letter the same denial and the same ignorance of the truth.

My second thought was that I'm willing to bet that Mr. Stewart isn't a high school student. He can preach about the tolerance and diversity in Crystal Lake, and I'll call him naïve.

Our high school is about as homogeneous as they come, and as far as tolerance, I'd suggest standing in our hallways to hear some of the things that are said.

The fact is, Crystal Lake is not on some moral high ground. We are not immune to the intolerance that can be found across this entire country.

That's Crystal Lake, Mr. Stewart, whether you accept it or not.

**John Larimer**  
Crystal Lake